

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please CANCEL claims 1, 4, 5, 10, and 18 without prejudice to or disclaimer of their subject matter. Please AMEND claims as follows.

Claim 1 (Cancelled).

2. (Currently Amended) An image formation apparatus comprising:
a charging unit for charging an image carrying member to a predetermined potential;
an exposure unit for exposing said image carrying member in order to form an
electrostatic latent image corresponding to image information signals from an external device
onto said image carrying member charged by said charging unit;
a developing unit for developing said electrostatic latent image on said image carrying
member with a developing agent to form a developing agent image;
a transfer unit for applying a transfer voltage onto a transfer member to transfer said
developing agent image on said image carrying member onto a recording medium;
a fixing unit comprising
a heating member for thermally fixing said developing agent image onto said
recording medium on which said developing agent image is transferred by said transfer unit, and
a pressure member for transporting said recording medium while pressing said
recording medium against said heating member;
an output unit for outputting information related to the environment in which said
image formation apparatus is disposed; and

a control unit for providing a predetermined lowering period of temperature for reducing temperature at said fixing unit between a fixing operation for a recording medium on which a developing agent image corresponding to previous image information signals is transferred and a fixing operation for a recording medium on which a developing agent image corresponding to next image information signals has been transferred,

wherein said control unit sets said predetermined lowering period of temperature based on information related to said environment which said output unit outputs, and according to
Claim 1,

wherein said control unit reduces temperature at said pressure member by stopping heating with said heating member during said predetermined lowering period of temperature.

3. (Currently Amended) An image formation apparatus comprising:
a charging unit for charging an image carrying member to a predetermined potential;
an exposure unit for exposing said image carrying member in order to form an electrostatic latent image corresponding to image information signals from an external device onto said image carrying member charged by said charging unit;
a developing unit for developing said electrostatic latent image on said image carrying member with a developing agent to form a developing agent image;
a transfer unit for applying a transfer voltage onto a transfer member to transfer said developing agent image on said image carrying member onto a recording medium;
a fixing unit comprising
a heating member for thermally fixing said developing agent image onto said

recording medium on which said developing agent image is transferred by said transfer unit, and
a pressure member for transporting said recording medium while pressing said
recording medium against said heating member;

an output unit for outputting information related to the environment in which said
image formation apparatus is disposed; and

a control unit for providing a predetermined lowering period of temperature for
reducing temperature at said fixing unit between a fixing operation for a recording medium on
which a developing agent image corresponding to previous image information signals is
transferred and a fixing operation for a recording medium on which a developing agent image
corresponding to next image information signals has been transferred,

wherein said control unit sets said predetermined lowering period of temperature based
on information related to said environment which said output unit outputs, and according to
Claim 1,

wherein said control unit controls said heating member to maintain a predetermined temperature in said fixing operation, and reduces temperature at said pressure member by controlling said heating member to maintain lower temperature than said predetermined temperature during said predetermined lowering period of temperature.

Claim 4 (Cancelled).

Claim 5 (Cancelled).

6. (Currently Amended) An image formation apparatus comprising:

a charging unit for charging an image carrying member to a predetermined potential;

an exposure unit for exposing said image carrying member in order to form an electrostatic latent image corresponding to image information signals from an external device onto said image carrying member charged by said charging unit;

a developing unit for developing said electrostatic latent image on said image carrying member with a developing agent to form a developing agent image;

a transfer unit for applying a transfer voltage onto a transfer member to transfer said developing agent image on said image carrying member onto a recording medium;

a fixing unit comprising

a heating member for thermally fixing said developing agent image onto said recording medium on which said developing agent image is transferred by said transfer unit, and

a pressure member for transporting said recording medium while pressing said recording medium against said heating member;

an output unit for outputting information related to the environment in which said image formation apparatus is disposed; and

a control unit for providing a predetermined lowering period of temperature for reducing temperature at said fixing unit between a fixing operation for a recording medium on which a developing agent image corresponding to previous image information signals is transferred and a fixing operation for a recording medium on which a developing agent image corresponding to next image information signals has been transferred,

wherein said control unit sets said predetermined lowering period of temperature based

on information related to said environment which said output unit outputs,

wherein said information related to the environment is information related to the

resistance of said transfer member,

wherein said output unit outputs information related to said resistance value based on

said transfer voltage which is applied to said transfer member so that a constant current flows

into said transfer member, and according to Claim 5,

wherein said control unit sets said predetermined period for a case of said transfer voltage being said predetermined voltage or less, to be longer than said predetermined period for a case of said transfer voltage being greater than said predetermined voltage.

7. (Currently Amended) An image formation apparatus comprising:

a charging unit for charging an image carrying member to a predetermined potential;

an exposure unit for exposing said image carrying member in order to form an

electrostatic latent image corresponding to image information signals from an external device

onto said image carrying member charged by said charging unit;

a developing unit for developing said electrostatic latent image on said image carrying

member with a developing agent to form a developing agent image;

a transfer unit for applying a transfer voltage onto a transfer member to transfer said

developing agent image on said image carrying member onto a recording medium;

a fixing unit comprising

a heating member for thermally fixing said developing agent image onto said

recording medium on which said developing agent image is transferred by said transfer unit, and

a pressure member for transporting said recording medium while pressing said recording medium against said heating member;

an output unit for outputting information related to the environment in which said image formation apparatus is disposed; and

a control unit for providing a predetermined lowering period of temperature for reducing temperature at said fixing unit between a fixing operation for a recording medium on which a developing agent image corresponding to previous image information signals is transferred and a fixing operation for a recording medium on which a developing agent image corresponding to next image information signals has been transferred,

wherein said control unit sets said predetermined lowering period of temperature based on information related to said environment which said output unit outputs, and according to

Claim 1,

wherein said control unit sets said predetermined lowering period of temperature by changing a period required for predetermined post-processing operations which said control unit executes following said fixing operations for a recording medium on which a developing agent image corresponding to said previous image information signals is transferred.

8. (Currently Amended) An image formation apparatus comprising:
a charging unit for charging an image carrying member to a predetermined potential;
an exposure unit for exposing said image carrying member in order to form an electrostatic latent image corresponding to image information signals from an external device
onto said image carrying member charged by said charging unit;

a developing unit for developing said electrostatic latent image on said image carrying member with a developing agent to form a developing agent image;

a transfer unit for applying a transfer voltage onto a transfer member to transfer said developing agent image on said image carrying member onto a recording medium;

a fixing unit comprising

a heating member for thermally fixing said developing agent image onto said recording medium on which said developing agent image is transferred by said transfer unit, and

a pressure member for transporting said recording medium while pressing said recording medium against said heating member;

an output unit for outputting information related to the environment in which said image formation apparatus is disposed; and

a control unit for providing a predetermined lowering period of temperature for reducing temperature at said fixing unit between a fixing operation for a recording medium on which a developing agent image corresponding to previous image information signals is transferred and a fixing operation for a recording medium on which a developing agent image corresponding to next image information signals has been transferred,

wherein said control unit sets said predetermined lowering period of temperature based on information related to said environment which said output unit outputs, and according to
Claim 1,

wherein said control unit sets said predetermined lowering period of temperature by changing a period from the end of predetermined post-processing operation which said control unit executes following said fixing operations for a recording medium on which a developing

agent image corresponding to said previous image information signals is transferred, to the start of fixing operations for a recording medium on which a developing agent image corresponding to said next image information signal has been transferred.

9. (Original) An image formation apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein said period until the start of said fixing operation is a period until the start of heating with said heating member.

Claim 10 (Cancelled).

11. (Currently Amended) An image formation apparatus comprising:
a charging unit for charging an image carrying member to a predetermined potential;
an exposure unit for exposing said image carrying member in order to form an electrostatic latent image corresponding to image information signals from an external device onto said image carrying member charged by said charging unit;
a developing unit for developing said electrostatic latent image on said image carrying member with a developing agent to form a developing agent image;
a transfer unit for applying a transfer voltage onto a transfer member to transfer said developing agent image on said image carrying member onto a recording medium;
a fixing unit comprising
a heating member for thermally fixing said developing agent image onto said recording medium on which said developing agent image is transferred by said transfer unit, and

a pressure member for transporting said recording medium member while pressing said recording medium member against said heating member;

a detecting unit for detecting said transfer voltage applied to said transfer member so that a constant current flows into said transfer member; and

a control unit for providing a predetermined lowering period of temperature for reducing temperature at said pressure member between fixing operations for a recording medium on which a developing agent image corresponding to previous image information signals is transferred and fixing operation for a recording medium on which a developing agent image corresponding to next image information signals has been transferred,

wherein said control unit sets said predetermined lowering period of temperature for a case of said transfer voltage detected by said detecting unit being said predetermined voltage or less, so as to be longer than said predetermined lowering period of temperature for a case of said transfer voltage being greater than said predetermined voltage.

12. (Original) An image formation apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein said control unit lowers temperature at said pressure member by stopping heating with a heating member during said predetermined lowering period of temperature.

13. (Currently Amended) An image formation apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein said control unit controls said heating member to maintain a predetermined temperature during said fixing operation, and lowers temperature at said pressure member by controlling said heating member of said fixing unit to maintain lower temperature than said predetermined

temperature during said predetermined lowering period of temperature.

14. (Original) An image formation apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein said control unit sets said predetermined lowering period of temperature by changing a period required for predetermined post-processing operation which said control unit executes following said fixing operation for a recording medium on which a developing agent image corresponding to said previous image information signals is transferred.

15. (Original) An image formation apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein said control unit sets said predetermined lowering period of temperature by changing a period from the end of predetermined post-processing operations which said control unit executes following said fixing operation for a recording medium on which a developing agent image corresponding to said previous image information signals is transferred, to the start of fixing operations for a recording medium on which a developing agent image corresponding to said next image information signals.

16. (Original) An image formation apparatus according to Claim 15, wherein said period until the start of said fixing operation is a period until the start of heating with said heating member.

17. (Original) An image formation apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein said control unit controls said heating member to maintain a predetermined temperature during

said fixing operation, and also changes said predetermined temperature based on said transfer voltage detected by said detecting unit.

Claim 18 (Cancelled).

19. (Currently Amended) An image formation apparatus according to Claim 11, said heating member comprising:

a film member which rotates while being in contact with a recording member; and
a heater member for heating a developing agent image on said recording member through said film member.